

THERE IS ~~NO HONOR~~ BUT IN

jihad

Abdullah, a man in his early 40s, is walking along the harbor of a crowded Male' city with his 5-year-old son, **Ismael**. He had just finished his night shift as a security guard. His eyes glanced at small groups of people not far from where he was. His mind is buzzing from the thoughts that were overwhelming it. Ismael, with an innocent smile on his face, kept running back and forth, unaware of the circumstances that lay ahead of him. Abdullah's eldest son **Rafeeq**, 14, would rarely come out of his home. He was suffering from chronic liver disease. Abdullah's daughter **Zara**, 12, has been detained under the custody of the Gender Ministry, for her insisting on wearing the Niqab, and for considering home-schooling - It was her dream to learn medicine. Abdullah's family was constantly pressured and interrogated by the government on suspicion of "**extremism**".

Abdullah would work 10-hour night shifts and earn \$400 monthly. Even so, he was bankrupt and drench in debt. So is the status of almost all his friends, neighbors, and family members. After he finishes the payment for the excruciating amounts of money for his bills and rent, he has barely any hope of saving money for the medical care needed for his ill son.

He is part of a country that has less than 500,000 in its population. A value that is one-third of the population of Mosul City, which was among one of the many cities ruled by the Islamic State half a decade ago. With less than half a million people to look after, the government is still unable to satisfy the basic needs of its people.

The Maldives is considered an "**independent state**", with international aid pouring into it in millions. The tourism and fisheries industry fuels the country's budget. Yet many live un-

der the poverty line. Like Abdullah, many are forced to migrate to the capital city of Male', and live-in congested apartments to fulfill their basic needs. The status of the islanders is no better.

Like Abdullah, the majority of the country is Sunni. Many are zealous and observant Muslims. Only a few handfals oppose the religion. Even so, the country is ruled by greedy politicians who are secular in their creed. Their injustice has caused complications in the lives of thousands of families. They continue taxing the people even when they have nothing to feed their families. Over the years the government has been ruled by a cesspool of criminal organizations. The presidential seat is shuffled and alternated among the same groups of people who do not have any insight into solving the basic problems faced by the people.

The government continues to echo its propaganda about a deep state existing within the shadows of the public. A status of state-within-state, they claim. It has nourished their agendas briefly. But as always, in the end, no one seems to take it seriously. The hogwash is short-lived. The dark state they refer to is nothing but outraged members of the society who are fatigued and have grown fed-up with the lies and deception of their leaders. The dark state they attribute is nothing but the Sunni Muslims of the country. These Muslims were presented with fear that a **"dark state"** is trying to break havoc and terror among the citizens. But at the end of the day, every commoner feels that it is none other than the government that is responsible for the terror and hardship they feel every day. Indeed, the people are in dire need of the Shariah of Allah, which would bring stability to their lives, while humiliating those who have been making the lives of the people miserable.

Fly back to 2014, the Islamic State broke the imaginary borders that were separating Iraq and Syria, and declared a global Caliphate, reviving the long-forgotten Sunnah of the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) and his companions. This came after years of brutal fighting between the Muslims and the Shirki alliances. Many were indecisive about the bold decision of the newly emerging state. People were only familiar with governments that were tied politically to each other, common in most of their Shirki beliefs. The general public knew these governments have been failing to look after their people over the years despite their power and capabilities. Many have already gotten used to living a life of humiliation under those leaders.

The years that followed showcased the true meaning of establishing the Legislation of Allah upon the earth. Peace and tranquility spread among the areas governed by the Islamic State. Even the Christians and Jews under the pact were safer within the State borders than their brothers living in the West. Poverty was diminished, as

the State's division of livelihood opportunities and revenue became unprejudiced. Islam reached its glory, and the Muslims were living in honor.

The accomplishment of the Islamic State to implement the Shariah of Allah upon mankind was not achieved easily. It was the result of the unwavering determination of few men who gave their lives cheaply for the sake of Allah, that others may gain honor both in this life and the Hereafter. Their blood and sacrifice washed away the Shirk from lands and revived a generation of people upon Tawhid. They rested only after their souls left their bodies. They acted upon what Allah ordered them. And in return, Allah favored them with power and recognition among the Muslims. The Muslims who are fortunate enough to witness this experienced how Allah was Truthful in His Promise And so, with patience upon Jihad and sacrifice this Ummah revived its garment of pride.

Indeed, the acceptance of living among the enemies of Islam and prohibiting one's hands from giving victory to the religion of Allah is a disgrace. And this disgrace is heightened if one chooses to ignore his duties while having experienced how the truthful have set examples. If the Crusaders and their multi-billion dollar funded Rafida states could be defeated by adhering to Allah's Commands, the Shirki governments of countries like Maldives can easily be overcome. What is needed is sincerity and steadfastness. Allah, the Mighty said, **"O you who have believed, persevere and endure and remain stationed and fear Allah that you may be successful."** (Surah Aal-Imran, 200) Your sacrifice today, by the Will of Allah, will bring enjoyment to the Muslims tomorrow.

Every capable Muslim should carry the attitude to be among those who sacrifice so that the remaining Muslims can live happily, and earn in the Hereafter. This was the same mindset carried by the selfless Mujahideen of the Islamic State that revived the Golden Era. Every Muslim should avert humiliation by preventing himself from being in a hope that someone will come and strike the heads of Kuffar for him. Rather he should consider that he would be the one to satisfy the breasts of the believers while breaking the shackles of fear from them. And the fear that one has for his enemies extends his period of waiting without action and losing both his life in this world and the Hereafter. And nonetheless, fear is contagious. If you surround yourself with individuals who spread fear, you will eventually be affected by its toxicity. **"That is only Satan who frightens [you] of his supporters. So, fear them not, but fear Me, if you are [indeed] believers."** (Surah Aal-Imran, 175)

Therefore, surround yourself with those who remind you, and incite you to stand up and compete for the reward of the Hereafter, that Allah may cast terror in the hearts of the disbelievers.